

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-3050**

**Bare Hills African American Survey District**

**Baltimore County, MD**

**1870-1930**

Beginning in the 1830s, Bare Hills is one of the oldest African-American neighborhoods in Baltimore County. It is located directly north of the Baltimore City line in the Third District of Baltimore County. African-American Reverend Aquila Scott settled the area along Falls Road Turnpike with the purchase of two acres of land in 1839. Several of the residences remaining in Bare Hills are noted on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas. North of the Bare Hills House, 6222 Falls Road, are four dwellings and one store lined along the south side of the road. A schoolhouse is located just north of this cluster of dwellings on the north side of Falls Road. The Bare Hills House is denoted as the residence of J. Wright, and south of this property are two dwellings along the road on the south side. Surrounding this area are the estates of Barnes, J. Hook, and Dr. W.H. Keener, in addition to the Bellona Gunpowder Company of Maryland. Only a few additions were made between 1877 and 1915 according to the Bromley Atlas. Walnut Avenue has been laid by 1915 and J.W. Gardman has plotted eight lots on the north side of the road. One dwelling has been constructed on Walnut Avenue by 1915. The 1915 map also shows the two houses at 6214 and 6216 Falls Road as twin dwellings.

Architecturally, the Bare Hills community consists of modest vernacular dwellings. Like many of the African American communities throughout Baltimore County the vernacular dwellings of Bare Hills are modest and lack any stylistic treatments typical of these styles. Interpretation of style is primarily through the form of the dwelling such as Four Squares, front-gable and side-gable dwellings. Colonial Revival style is the predominant style representing forms with front-gable, side-gable, and hipped-roof forms. Construction materials used throughout the survey district include only wood frame and many of the houses are reclad with either asbestos shingles, asphalt shingles, wood shingles, or vinyl siding. The house at 6224 Falls Road is the only house within the district with its original weatherboard siding.



## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3050

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Bare Hills African American Survey District is located on Falls Road (Route 25) and Walnut Avenue directly east of the Jones Falls Expressway (I-83). Bordering the community to the east is a small shopping center and a retirement center. To the north and northwest warehouses and commercial buildings border the survey district. The Bare Hills landscape is hilly and wooded. The Bare Hills survey district consists of thirteen historic dwellings on small rectangular lots; four twin dwellings and nine single-family dwellings stand in the district. The clusters of houses are sited close to the road and to their neighboring houses. Many of the dwellings have gravel driveways and are surrounded by trees, shrubs, and have foundation plantings.

Architecturally, the Bare Hills community dates from circa 1865 to 1930 and consists of modest vernacular dwellings. Like many of the African American communities throughout Baltimore County the vernacular dwellings of Bare Hills are modest and lack any stylistic treatments typical of these styles. Interpretation of style is primarily through the form of the dwelling such as Four Squares, front-gable and side-gable dwellings. Colonial Revival style is the predominant style representing forms with front-gable, side-gable, and hipped-roof forms. Construction materials used throughout the survey district include only wood frame and many of the houses are re clad with either asbestos shingles, asphalt shingles, wood shingles, or vinyl siding. The house at 6224 Falls Road is the only house within the district with its original weatherboard siding.

The earliest houses are sited at north of the Bare Hills House on Falls Road at 6236, 6238, 6240, and 6242 and date to circa 1870. Each of these houses rests on random-rubble stone foundations. The single-pile twin dwellings at 6242 and 6240 Falls Road are two-stories-high and four bays wide. Both are capped with a side-gable roof and features include two off-center single-leaf entries, 1/1 replacement windows, overhanging eaves, and a center-interior brick chimney. The house at 6238 Falls Road features an L-shaped footprint and is two-stories-high and two bays wide. Rising above the asphalt shingle roof is a center-interior brick chimney and many of the 6/6 wood-sash windows are boarded over. This vacant house is re clad with simulated brick asphalt shingles.

Dating circa 1870, the multiple dwelling at 6224 Falls rises two-and-a-half stories high and measures six bays wide. Originally, this dwelling consisted of three bays with a center entry. A three bay wide addition was constructed on the north elevation. The original building had a side-gable roof, which was altered to a center-cross gable roof succeeding the addition. Across the full-width of the façade is a half-hipped roof porch supported with square posts and square balusters. Features include 6/6 wood sash windows and a center-interior corbeled brick chimney.

Three houses stand on Walnut Avenue and date to the late 1920s. Each of these houses stands slightly farther back from the road than the previously described dwellings. Each house rises two-stories high, measures two bays wide, and features a one-story high full-width porch on the façade. The houses at 1404 and 1408 Walnut Avenue are similar with their rectangular footprints, front-gable roofs, and German vinyl-siding. The house at 1406 Walnut Avenue is capped with a hipped roof and features a hipped roof dormer on the façade. This house also has an interior brick chimney and 6/6 wood-sash windows.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-3050

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1870-1930

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1870-1930

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Beginning in the 1830s, Bare Hills is one of the oldest African-American neighborhoods in Baltimore County. It is located directly north of the Baltimore City line in the Third District of Baltimore County. The community is sited south of Ruxton and southeast of Lake Roland. African-American Reverend Aquila Scott settled the area along Falls Road Turnpike with the purchase of two acres of land in 1839. Purchasing land out of Hector's Hop Yard, a thirty-acre tract, it was deeded to Aquila Scott from John Zee Hook.(1)

Originally focused on the west side of Falls Road, Bare Hills is roughly bounding the community is Clarkview Road on the west, Robert E. Lee Park on the north and east, and Hollins Lane on the south. Bare Hills gets its name because of the mining for chromite and copper in the 19th century. Chromite was found in the area in 1810 and continued to be mined until 1850. At the time of settlement in the 1820s and 1830s, the area had already been heavily stripped and mined.

Aquila Scott was born a free black to Tobias Scott in 1784 in St. Mary's County. Freedom was granted to Tobias Scott and his descendents as a reward to saving his owner's life, a slave ship captain. Prior to moving to Baltimore County, Aquila Scott worked as a blacksmith and a wheelwright in St. Mary's County. In the 1820s Aquila Scott moved to Baltimore County and worked as a blacksmith and served as a reverend.(2) Aquila Scott and his wife, Priscilla, had twelve children in Baltimore County named John, William, Johanna, Mary, James Aquila Jr., George, Susana, James, Nathaniel, Edward, Priscilla, and Ellen. In 1858 at the age of 74, Aquila Scott died at the pulpit and was buried on his land. Six years following her husband's death Priscilla died in 1864. Two years later, James Aquila Scott purchased the entire church property for \$800. He continued to hold services in the church for the community.(3)

Prior to the construction of St. John's Church on Bellona Avenue in Ruxton, Aquila Scott held services in his residence along Falls Turnpike. In 1833, Elijah Fishpaw, a white landowner, deeded three quarters of an acre in Ruxton to five black men including Aquila Scott. This land was to be used as the site of an African-American Methodist Church and cemetery.(4) A stone parsonage was constructed along with a log church. The log building burned in 1876 and was replaced in 1886 by a wood-frame church on top the original stone foundation. This one-room church seats approximately 75 people.

Several of the residences remaining in Bare Hills are noted on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas. North of the Bare Hills House, 6222 Falls Road, are four dwellings and one store lined along the south side of the road. A schoolhouse is located just north of this cluster of dwellings on the north side of Falls Road. The Bare Hills House is denoted as the residence of J. Wright, and south of this property are two dwellings lined along the road on the south side. Surrounding this area are the estates of Barnes, J. Hook, and Dr. W.H. Keener, in addition to the Bellona Gunpowder Company of Maryland.(5) Only a few additions were made between 1877 and 1915 according to the Bromley Atlas. The 1915 map shows the addition of four dwellings north of the Bare Hills House. Walnut Avenue has been laid by 1915 and J.W. Gardman has plotted eight lots on the north side of the road. One dwelling has been

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constructed on Walnut Avenue by 1915. The 1915 map also shows the two houses at 6214 and 6216 Falls Road as twin dwellings.(6)

Since its establishment, St. John's Church has been considered the center of the community and spiritual life for the Bare Hills residents. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s church service was held Thursday and Sunday nights. Thursdays were days off for the domestic workers. Some say that the church provided the only amusement in town. Special activities included suppers, lawn fetes, and box parties according to Marie Scott Brown.(7).

Expansion of the Bare Hills community occurred in 1925 when John W. Gardmon subdivided his farm located south of the original settlement. Gardmon, husband to the granddaughter of Aquila Scott, purchased a large tract of land in Bare Hills in 1902. Named for its scenic qualities, Gardman called the subdivision 'Pleasant View.' Several white residents put in bids for lots in Pleasant View but were denied by Gardman. He developed the land to sell only to African-Americans in order to maintain a sense of community. This development contains dwellings dating from 1950 to the present.

Attending school in Bare Hills was limited only to the white children. Black residents were forced to send their children to schools either in Lutherville or within Baltimore City. The proximity of city schools was a factor in the community's decision not to construct their own African-American school.

Very little turn over has occurred within the small community of Bare Hills until recently. Historically, it has been an integrated neighborhood between whites and blacks. Marie Scott Brown, great-granddaughter of Aquila Scott, stated that most blacks in Bare Hills worked as domestics for the whites in the larger dwellings east of Falls Road. Brown and other older residents have made statements about the lack of racial tension between the Bare Hills residents.

Bare Hills suffered a downward trend in community involvement especially by way of St. John's Church. Due to the lack of attendance the church ceased to operate in the 1960s. The recent trend beginning in the late-20th century has been for the older residents to sell their properties to Anglo-Americans. Young African-American residents move out of the neighborhood because of the unavailability of property. In the 1980s, the symbol of the community, St. Johns Church, was returned to its former glory through a substantial rehabilitation. The property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 and the Maryland Historical Trust holds an easement on the property for continuous protection. The Church property will continue to be under ownership of Scott's descendents.(8)

### ENDNOTES

1. Robert A. Erlandson, Bare Hills Community Proud Of Its History. The Evening Sun, 6 August 1992.
2. Frederick Rasmussen, Where They Want To Stay Undiscovered. The Sun, 21 November 1999.
3. Linell Smith, Recycled Church. The Evening Sun, 23 October 1985.
4. Robert A. Erlandson, Bare Hills Community Proud Of Its History. The Evening Sun, 6 August 1992.
5. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).
6. Map of Baltimore County (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).
7. Linell Smith, Recycled Church. The Evening Sun, 23 October 1985.
8. Linell Smith, Recycled Church. The Evening Sun, 23 October 1985.

OWNERSHIP AS OF NOVEMBER 11, 2002

6214 Falls Road Betty Williams -- tax id # 0310025175



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Map 69 Parcel 64	6216 Falls Road Liber 13690 Folio 722
6216 Falls Road Map 69 Parcel 1086	Betty Williams -- tax id # 0323051625 6216 Falls Road Liber 13690 Folio 717
6228 Falls Road Map 69 Parcel 976	Dorothy and James M. Zelenka -- tax id # 0302057150 6224 Falls Road Liber 7165 Folio 141
6234 Falls Road Map 69 Parcel 658	Joseph Worthan, Jr. and Renee Worthan -- tax id # 0319012780 6234 Falls Road Liber 13335 Folio 92
6236 Falls Road Map 69 Parcel 571	Carolyn S. Levere -- tax id # 0320066100 210A Winters Lane Baltimore, MD 21228 Liber 11442 Folio 550
6238 Falls Road Map 69 Parcel 1027	William W. and Catherine M. Scott -- tax id# 0319011992 6238 Falls Road Liber 4876 Folio 715
6238 Falls Road Map 69 Parcel 1027	William W. and Catherine M. Scott -- tax id # 0319011991 6238 Falls Road Liber 3731 Folio 64
6240 Falls Road Map 69 Parcel 1021	Melanie L. Smith -- tax id # 0308055901 18874 McFarlin Drive Germantown, MD 20874 Liber 7901 Folio 748
6242 Falls Road Map 69 Parcel 858	Georgia S. White and Shirley Ann Covin -- tax id # 0308055900 18874 McFarlin Drive Germantown, MD 20874 Liber 7901 Folio 750
1404 Walnut Avenue Map 69 Parcel 976	Sedona Properties, LLC -- tax id # 0320000953 1404 Walnut Avenue Liber 16578 Folio 687
1406 Walnut Avenue Map 69 Parcel 976	Denise Dorothy Butler and Leroy W. Taylor -- tax id # 0310045225 1406 Walnut Avenue Liber 11886 Folio 175

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1408 Walnut Avenue Tyrone and Rita Smith -- tax id # 0302065800  
Map 69 Parcel 976 1408 Walnut Avenue  
Liber 5979 Folio 850

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 9.6 acres

Acreage of historical setting unknown

Quadrangle name Cockeysville, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Bare Hills is located near the historic village of Ruxton in the Third District of Baltimore County. The Bare Hills Survey District is comprised of thirteen dwellings along Falls Road and Walnut Avenue. The properties have historically been associated with tax map 69 since their construction.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Kristie Baynard, Architectural Historian

organization E.H.T. Traceries

date 11/11/02

street and number 1121 Fifth Street, NW

telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600



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Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Diggs, Louis S. In Our Voices: A Folk History in Legacy. Uptown Press, 1998.

Erlandson, Robert A. Bare Hills community proud of its history. The Evening Sun. Baltimore: August, 6, 1992.

James, Ellen L. Enclave Residents Facing Problems of Long Neglect, Housing and Survival. The Evening Sun: Baltimore, October 24, 1977.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

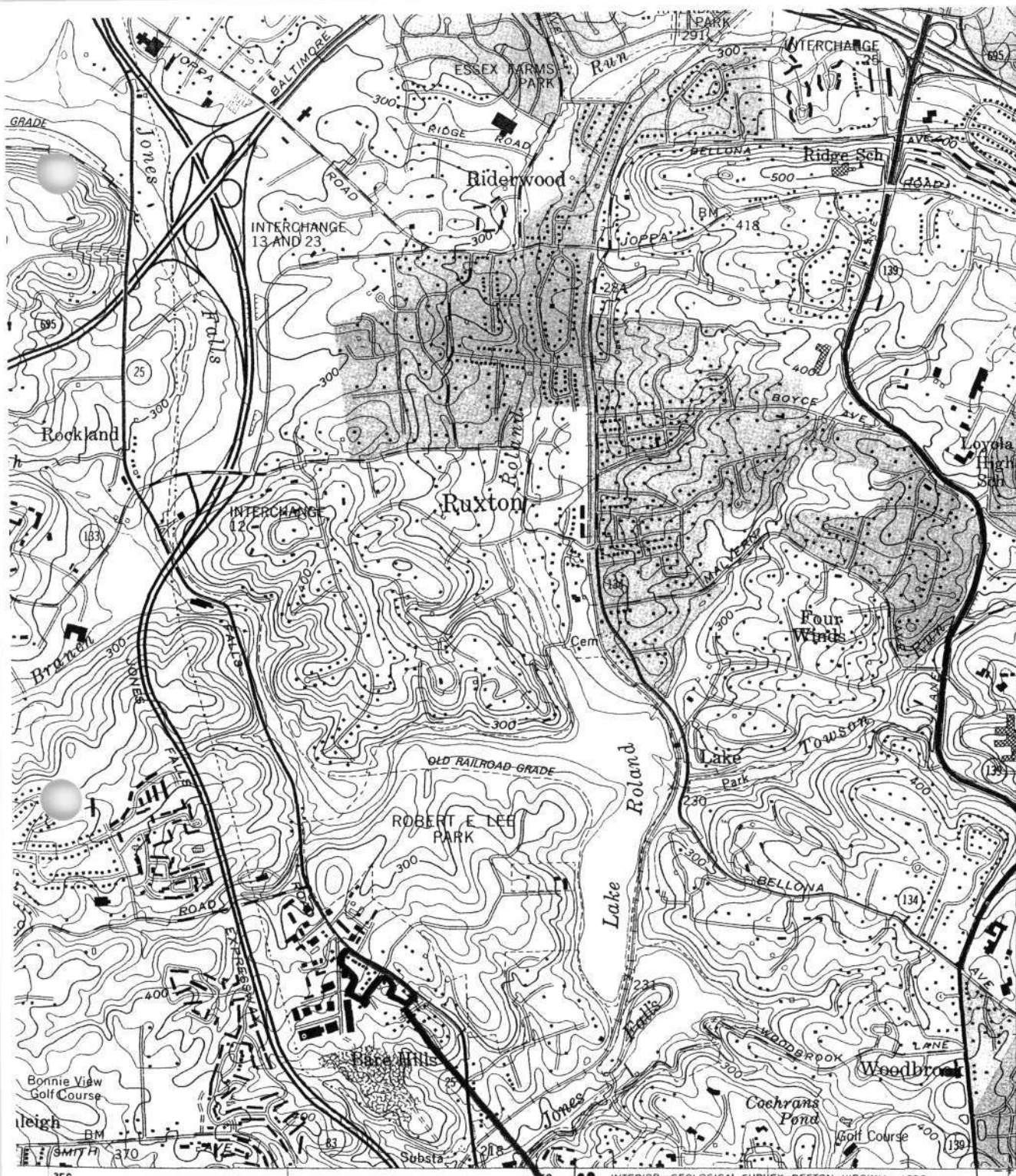
Rasmussen, Frederick. Where they want to stay undiscovered. The Sun. Baltimore: November 21, 1999.

Smith, Linell. Recycled Church. The Evening Sun. Baltimore: October 23, 1985.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. The Census of 1930, Baltimore County, Maryland. National Archives.



25'  
4364  
1 MI. TO INTERCHANGE 26  
TOWSON (VIA MD. 48) 2 MI.

4362

4361

4360000m N.

39°22'30"

76°37'30"

(BALTIMORE EAST)  
5662 I SE

Heavy  
Mediu  
li

**BA-3050**  
**BARE HILLS AFRICAN**  
**AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT**  
**BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD**  
**COCKEYSVILLE, MD USGS MAP**



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

**COCKEYSVILLE, MD.**  
39076-D6-TF-024

1957  
PHOTOREVISED 1986  
DMA 5662 I NW-SERIES V833

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1983 and other sources. This information not field checked Map edited 1986

WEST





BA-3050

BARE HILLS AFRICAN AMERICAN  
SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

11/2002

MD SHPO

6234 ~~642~~ FALLS ROAD, VIEW LOOKING SE

1 of 3





BA-3050

BARE HILLS AFRICAN AMERICAN  
SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

11/2002

MD SHPD

1408-1404 WALNUT AVENUE, VIEW LOOKING NORTH

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BA-3050

BARE HILLS AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAKERIES

11/2002

MD SHPO

6224 Falls Road, NE elevation

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